

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 COME-00 EB-11

DRC-01 /093 W

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R 110511Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5725

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5725

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK

SUBJECT: SALE OF MK-44 TORPEDO TO PAKISTAN

1. ADDITIONAL SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ ASKED THAT I CALL ON HIM AT WHICH TIME HE PRESENTED FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE:

BEGIN TEXT: THE PAKISTAN NAVY IS FACING DIFFICULTIES IN REGARD TO THE SUPPLY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FROM THE UNITED STATES:

1. MK 44 TORPEDOES FOR SEA KING HELICOPTERS OF THE PAKISTAN NAVY. THE US GOVERNMENT HAS SUPPLIED THIS WEAPON IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, AFTER THE 1971 WAR THE US HAS NOT ONLY REFUSED TO SELL THIS ITEM ITSELF BUT HAS ALSO PUT AN EMBARGO ON ITS SALE BY OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE IT IS MANUFACTURED UNDER LICENSE. THUS THE WELL PROVEN AND SOPHISTICATED ANTI-SUBMARINE HELICOPTERS THAT HAVE A PURELY DEFENSIVE ROLE REMAIN WITHOUT ANY EFFECTIVE WEAPON.

2. A SHIP BORNE ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE IS NEEDED TO EQUIP TWO FRIGATES. THE SEA SPARROW IN WHICH THE NAVY IS INTERESTED IS OF US ORIGIN BUT IS ALSO MANUFACTURED UNDER LICENSE IN ITALY. THE US NAVAL ATTACHE HAS INFORMED THE I.S.I. DIRECTORATE THAT THE US EMBARGO WOULD PROBABLY APPLY TO THE ACQUISITION OF THIS WEAPON FROM ITALY FOR THE

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SAME REASON AS FOR MK 44 TORPEDOES.

THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT SELL ARMS TO PAKISTAN BUT WHEN OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE ARE STOPPED FROM SUPPLYING WEAPONS OF US DESIGN, IT CREATES SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR PAKISTAN. NORMALLY, THE SALE IS ONLY DENIED ON SECURITY REASONS WHICH DO NOT APPLY IN OUR CASE. UNTIL THE US RESTRICTION ON SUPPLY OF LETHAL ARMS TO PAKISTAN IS LIFTED, ITS APPLICATION SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THE WEAPONS MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES AND NOT IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHICH CAN PRODUCE AND SUPPLY THEM IF THERE WERE NO AMERICAN EMBARGO. END TEXT.

2. I TOLD SHAHNAWAZ I WAS QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE MK 44 TORPEDO ITEM AND THAT I HAD RECOMMENDED THAT PAKISTAN BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE THIS ITEM EITHER FROM US OR THE BRITISH. I SAID I WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE SEA SPARROW MATTER BUT WOULD LOOK INTO IT.

3. ODRP MESSAGE NO 2090352Z JUNE 74, WITH SECSTATE INFO ADDRESSEE, PUT THE CASE ON THE MK 44 TORPEDO. I DO HOPE THAT THIS ITEM CAN BE APPROVED AS THE PAKS WANT IT SO BADLY. IF WE DO NOT APPROVE THEY WILL SIMPLY PAY MORE MONEY FOR THE FRENCH COUNTERPART. IT SEEMS TO ME THIS COULD BE APPROVED UNDER PRESENT POLICY. PURCHASE OF THE SEA SPARROW FROM ITALY WOULD HARDLY SEEM POSSIBLE WITHOUT A CHANGE IN PRESENT POLICY. BYROADE

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